

BOROUGH OF WATCHUNG
COUNCIL MINUTES
NOVEMBER 25, 2013 - 7:30 P.M.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT: Mayor Pote called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM and made the following statement: Under the provisions of N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et seq., notice of the time and place of this meeting was given by way of annual notice to the Courier News, Echoes Sentinel, and Star Ledger, and posted at Borough Hall.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG and a MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN, SERVING HOME AND ABROAD

OATH OF ALLEGIANCE AND OFFICE

Stephen K. Pote – Mayor (unexpired term, ending 12/31/14)

Clerk Michelle DeRocco administered the Oath of Office to Stephen K. Pote as his father, Donald, held the Bible.

Robert Gibbs – Councilmember (unexpired term, ending 12/31/14)

Clerk Michelle DeRocco administered the Oath of Office to Robert Gibbs.

ROLL CALL

Joren [P] Black [P] Franklin [P] Nehls [P] Gibbs [P] Beck-Clemens [P]

Also present were Administrator Tom Atkins, Attorney Albert Cruz, Engineer Tom Herits, Clerk Michelle DeRocco, and Deputy Clerk, MaryAnn Hance.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Council President Joren moved the following resolution with a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Nehls, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, “aye.”

R1:11/25/13 Appointment to Youth Services Commission

Council President Joren, as a founder of the Commission, thanked the students for volunteering their time to be members of the Commission and also thanked their parents for supporting them.

Olivia Xu – Student Member of Youth Services Commission (term expiring 6/30/14)

Mayor Pote administered the Oath of Office to Olivia Xu.

Achilles Aslidis – Student Member of Youth Services Commission term expiring 6/30/14)

Mayor Pote administered the Oath of Office to Achilles Aslidis.

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

1. Administration & Finance: Councilman Franklin reported he was in receipt of the September Revenue Report and the Borough is in good shape. This report does not reflect November tax receipts. He said the projected appropriation balance for year-end will be approximately \$150,000. Councilman Franklin also reported the Administration & Finance Committee will be meeting next week to discuss some personnel issues and a property lease, and another meeting will be scheduled to discuss the RFP proposals for 2014.
1. Police: Council President Joren reported Chief Cina is looking forward to hiring a new dispatcher and has made his recommendations to the committee. In regard to the upcoming Black Friday event, she said Walmart will be open on Thanksgiving day 7 AM until 5 or 6 PM and then re-open again at midnight. The Fire Department and Rescue Squad are onboard and Walmart has hired 16 police officers to assist with the crowds. Mayor Pote said he was at Walmart last year and it was very well organized with no problems, most likely due to the implementation of our Ordinance.

1. Public Works / Buildings and Grounds- Councilman Nehls reported the Public Works Department had 25 service calls and 70 work orders. The department also had 3 mulch and 2 wood chip deliveries. Councilman Nehls also said the DEP has granted the Borough an extension for the Ness Farm TDMA until January 31, 2014 and if additional time is needed the Borough can ask for an additional extension. All materials must be removed before the TDMA site is closed.

Councilman Nehls said Watchung Hills High School has taken approximately 1000 cubic yards of mulch for use on their property. He also reported repairs to the school electronic crosswalks at Brookdale Road and Verona Place were completed. Councilman Nehls reported potholes are being filled, repairs to catch basins are being done, leaf bag pickup has begun, the sprinklers have been winterized in the lakes and the water lines have been drained for the winter at Mobus and Phillips fields. He said all salt spreaders have been installed on the trucks and the Borough has approximately 150 tons of salt on hand. Councilman Nehls said Public Works received a request from the Traffic and Beautification Committee to remove the flowers from the triangle beds. He also reported that there was a Public Works meeting this morning and they reviewed the Mountain Drive project which is moving forward, and the sanitary sewer project on Valley Drive and the easements for Levin have been started. He said the Borough is looking to remove the metal fencing at Camp Endeavor and recycling it, and then will be looking at getting this site back to open space. Councilman Nehls said the Committee's top priorities will be the HVAC systems at the Police Department and Fire House, and they will also be looking at the dam at Allen Pond. He also said there is a meeting with Mt. Saint Mary's tomorrow to discuss sanitary sewer flows and he thanked Councilman Franklin for representing the Borough at this meeting.

4. Public Affairs:

Open Space: Councilwoman Beck-Clemens reported there will be no meeting in December and that there will be a re-organization meeting in January.

Environmental: Councilman Gibbs reported there is a meeting tonight and he will give a report in December.

Recreation: Councilwoman Beck-Clemens reported the Commission is meeting next Wednesday and she will give her report at the next Council meeting.

Historical: Councilwoman Beck-Clemens said the consultant's (Caucus Archival Projects Evaluation Service) report on the evaluation of the Texier House Museum was very positive, and that the museum will be open on December 7th from 1:00 pm to 5 pm.

Board of Health: Councilman Black had no report.

5. Fire: Councilman Black had no report.

0 Laws/Ordinances: Council President Joren reported there was a meeting this evening prior to the Council meeting and she will give her report at the next meeting.

REPORTS - OTHER:

0 Engineer: Tom Herits reported that Mountain Boulevard project is almost complete with just the milling and paving by the bridge to be completed; and the Mountain Drive project is also almost completed. Mr. Herits said a preconstruction meeting is scheduled for December 3rd for the Cedar/Lakeview project, and the drainage work will begin soon after, noting the curbing portion to be done in the spring of next year. He also reported on the Fire House quotes and said he will be meeting with Councilman Nehls next week for further discussion. Councilman Nehls said the cost estimates for the bathrooms, shower and ADA entrance drawings from the two architects were \$35,000 and \$15,000. He said the Borough should be able to perform some of the work. Tom Herits said the bids are for plans only. He said he will be meeting with Councilman Nehls, and Councilman Black at the next Fire Department meeting. Mr. Herits also reported bids will be opened on Friday, December 6th for the generator project. He said Public Works will have to apply for a variance from the Zoning Department for the location they want to place the Public Works storage shed. Councilman Nehls explained that the original location was adjacent to the rock wall which could be a potential problem and Mr. Herits said the location now would be approximately 30 feet away from the existing Public Works Building.

8. Police Chief: No report was submitted.

9. Fire Department: No report was submitted.

10. Rescue Squad: No report was submitted.

11. Emergency Management: No report was submitted.

12. Attorney: Mr. Cruz had nothing to report.

0 Clerk: Ms. DeRocco reported that nine officials from Watchung attended the League Conference and that the feed back on all seminars they attended was very positive. Ms. DeRocco remind

everyone to RSVP to the Holiday Party.

14. Administrator: Tom Atkins had no report other than to wish all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Pote said he enjoyed the League Conference and the classes he attended.

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PUBLIC PORTION / AGENDA ITEMS ONLY

No one from the public desired to be heard.

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UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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NEW BUSINESS

CONSENT AGENDA: The Consent Agenda items listed below were unanimously adopted following a motion by Council President Joren and a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Nehls, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, “aye.”

Approval of the following Council minutes:
November 18, 2013 Special Meeting

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Borough Reports:
Tax Collector Report - October, 2013
Recreation Commission Minutes - October 2, 2013
Finance Department Revenue Reports - July, August, September, 2013
Historical Committee Minutes - October 9, 2013
Planning Board Minutes - June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17, October 15, 2013

Acknowledging Receipt of the following Correspondence:

- #81 - Green Brook Flood Control Commission 11/13/13 Requesting the appointment of 3 representatives from the Borough to the Commission, and notice that at their December meeting the current by-laws will be discussed c: M & C, TEA
- #82 - Township of Berkeley Heights 11/20/13 Notice of Adoption of Land Use Ordinance 12-2013 c: M & C, TEA, TH, DS

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CONSENT AGENDA RESOLUTIONS: The Consent Agenda resolutions listed below were unanimously adopted following a motion by Council President Joren and a second by Councilman Nehls and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Nehls, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, “aye.”

R2:11/25/13 Authorize Clerk to Issue Raffle License - PTO Watchung Inc.

R3: Authorize Return of Limousine License Application Fee - Black Car
Transportation LLC

R4: Authorize Execution of Grant Extension - Watchung Hills Municipal Alliance Grant /
January 1, 2014 through June 30,
2014

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NON--CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS: Items listed below will be individually addressed and acted upon accordingly. Council reserves the right to refer an item to Committee for further review and discussion.

Prior to addressing R5 Councilman Gibbs requested to be recused and stepped down from the dais.

Councilman Nehls moved the following resolution:

R5: Supporting PSE&G's Energy Strong Program

Councilman Franklin questioned how this project will be financed and Mr. Cruz explained that in the brochure it is stated expenses will come off the 2014-2016 bills and there will be no impact on customers' bills.

Council President Joren seconded the motion and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Nehls, Beck-Clemens, “aye.”

Councilman Franklin moved the following resolution with a second by Councilman Black and upon roll call the vote was as follows: Joren, Black, Franklin, Nehls, Gibbs, Beck-Clemens, “aye.”

R6: Payment of Bills.

Green Brook Flood Control Commission – Update

Former Mayor and GBFCC Borough Representative Anthony Addario gave a synopsis on what has been happening at the Commission and said they have been asking for \$11,000 for the flood control budget in the area, and noted the proposed budget for 2014 is \$100 less. He said Bound Brook remediation project is 99% complete but reported there has been nothing done in North Plainfield or other towns. Mr. Addario asked the Mayor and Council for direction when the future is discussed regarding upper basin improvements at the Commission meetings. He said the Commission has changed their by-laws and will now be meeting every other month. Mayor Pote said he would like to sit with Councilman Black and Mr. Addario for further discussion. Councilwoman Beck-Clemens said she will send copies of the County study on Sustainable NJ to Mr. Addario and anyone else who may be interested.

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PUBLIC PORTION - GENERAL DISCUSSION

No one from the public desired to be heard.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 P.M. to the Call of the Chair, and the next scheduled Council meeting to be held on December 12, 2013 at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryAnn Hance
Deputy Clerk